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The President's Daily Brief

28 June

1970

Sunday
28 JUN 1970

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PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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Cambodia: The military situation is unusually quiet in many parts of the country. In the northeast, the withdrawal of government forces and the evacuation of some 5,000 civilian refugees from the towns of Labansiek and Bokheo in RATANAKIRI Province has been completed.

South Vietnamese troops supporting this operation have returned to South Vietnam. The withdrawal has erased the last vestiges of the government's presence in RATANAKIRI.

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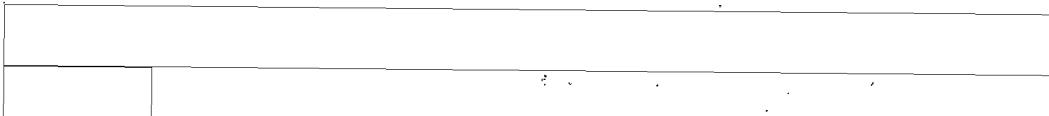
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South Vietnam: President Thieu's speech to the nation on 27 June contained no surprises. For the most part, it was a delineation of the cautious military policy toward Cambodia that he has been developing over the past few weeks.

His statements were [redacted] indicating he had decided against extensive operations deep in Cambodia. He ruled out any blanket commitments, preferring to study each Cambodian request for help on its own merits.

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He also referred to an impending reorganization of the armed forces, as he has before, and he mentioned a need to reorganize the government "from the district to the central level," also not a new theme. In neither case did he give any specifics.

Middle East: The new US political initiative has received some predictable criticism by the public media of the more radical Arab states, such as Syria and Libya, but the radio and press of the countries most directly concerned have been more restrained. No public comment has come from Jordan yet, but in Israel commentaries have shown some degree of suspicion and concern. In Egypt, although the proposals received some public

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criticism, the most authoritative newspaper said only that the foreign ministry is studying the initiative carefully.

Israel-Syria: There were no reports of fighting on Saturday in the Golan Heights area. After Friday's heavy action, Israel admitted to ten killed and thirty wounded. Damascus said 45 Syrians were killed, and 75 wounded.

There was some military action along other cease fire lines on Saturday, however, as Israeli planes struck alleged fedayeen bases in Jordan and shot up Egyptian military positions along the canal.

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